

PROPOSED HOUSE AND JOINT RULES  
AMENDMENTS RELATING TO A SPECIAL SESSION

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your procedural **Rules Committee (Rep. Lefor, Chairman)** recommends that the House and Joint Rules of the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, as adopted on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, and further amended on January 6, 2023, be amended as follows for the special session of the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly:

1       **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 102 is amended as follows:

2       **102. Absence and presence.** As used in these rules, "absent" means not present, and  
3 "present" means being physically in the chamber or room where the session or meeting is being  
4 held, ~~and for purposes of a committee meeting, includes participation or participating in the~~  
5 session or meeting by means of interactive video or teleconference call. No ~~A member present~~  
6 and participating remotely has the same rights, privileges, and duties as a member physically  
7 present, is deemed to be "on the floor" for purposes of floor sessions, and may vote remotely. A  
8 member may not participate on the floor remotely unless the Speaker has determined  
9 circumstances dictate remote participation is necessitated. A member or officer of the House,  
10 unless unable to attend due to illness or other cause, may not be absent from a session of the  
11 House, during an entire day, without first having obtained leave from the House, and no one is  
12 entitled to draw pay while absent more than one day without leave.

13       **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 303 is amended as follows:

14       **303. Call of the House.**

- 15       1. Thirty-two members of the House may cause a call of the House to be ordered and  
16       absent members to be sent for, but a call may not be ordered while a vote is being  
17       taken.
- 18       2. The call being requested, the Speaker shall require those desiring the call to rise or  
19       raise their hands, and if thirty-two or more members rise or raise their hands, the call  
20       must be ordered.
- 21       3. The call being ordered, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall close the door and allow no  
22       members to leave the chamber. A member present and participating remotely may not  
23       leave the remote proceeding.
- 24       4. The Chief Clerk shall then call the roll and furnish the Sergeant-at-Arms with a list of  
25       those members absent without leave, and that officer shall proceed to find and bring in  
26       those absentees or compel the absentees' remote participation.

1       5. While the House is under call, no business can be transacted except to receive and  
2       act on the report of the Sergeant-at-Arms and no motion is in order except a motion to  
3       suspend further proceedings under the call, and the motion may not be adopted  
4       unless a majority of all members-elect vote in favor of the motion.

5       6. Upon a report of the Sergeant-at-Arms showing that all members who were absent  
6       without leave, naming them, are present, the call is at an end, the door must be  
7       opened, and the House shall proceed with the business pending at the time the call  
8       was made.

9       **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 305 is amended as follows:

10      **305. Recognition by the Speaker.** Every member who is present physically desiring to  
11      speak shall ~~rise and~~ indicate by pressing the "speak" button on the member's desk. If the  
12      "speak" button does not work, the member may rise, respectfully address the Speaker, and  
13      shall remain standing in place before proceeding to speak until recognized by the Speaker.  
14      Every member who is present and participating remotely who wishes to speak shall so indicate  
15      by the means designated by the Speaker and shall wait to speak until recognized by the  
16      Speaker. When two or more members rise at the same time to speak, the Speaker shall  
17      designate the member who is to speak first, but in all other cases the member who rises first  
18      and addresses the Speaker must be the first recognized.

19      **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 321 is amended as follows:

20      **321. Vote by members.** Every member who is present, before the vote is announced from  
21      the chair, shall vote for or against the question before the House, unless the House excuses the  
22      member. A member cannot cast a vote on behalf of another member unless the vote is cast  
23      according to verbal instructions announced to the House by that other member while ~~in the~~  
24      ~~chamber~~ present. However, any member who has a personal or private interest in any measure  
25      or bill shall disclose the fact to the House and may not vote thereon without the consent of the  
26      House. A "personal or private interest" is an interest that affects the member directly,  
27      individually, uniquely, and substantially.

28      **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 360 is amended as follows:

29      **360. Electrical voting system and remote voting.** Unless otherwise ordered, any vote  
30      may be taken by means of the electrical voting system, which is under the control of the  
31      Speaker. A member who is present and participating remotely may vote using a system

1 established for that purpose. The system must provide means to record and make public the  
2 member's roll call votes.

3 **SECTION 6.** Joint Rule 305 is created as follows:

4 **305. Remote testimony and participation.** The Joint Appropriations Committee and the  
5 Joint Policy Committee shall allow remote testimony during committee meetings. Committee  
6 members may participate remotely upon approval from the Majority Leader of the Senate or the  
7 Speaker of the House.